171: TEMA A PRINCESA

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

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IMAGE COMICS APRESENTA

THE WALKING DEAD™

171: TEMA A PRINCESA

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ANTERIORMENTE:

A tensão entre Rick e Dwight permanece enquanto Alexandria se recupera da Guerra dos Sussurradores. Negan seguem e direção ao isolamento, mas é seguido por Dante. A caravana de Michone chega na Pittsburgh cênica, que parece estar quase totalmente vazia— viva ou morta. Lá, Siddiq faz uma triste confissão a Eugene: que ele era o pai do bebê de Rosita.

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DIGITAL EDITION.

EU DISSE A MIM MESMO QUE ESTAVA TE ***PROTEGENDO*** AO MANTÊ-LO NO ESCURO... POUPANDO SEUS SENTIMENTOS OU ALGO ASSIM. ROSITA SE ***FOI***, SÓ ***PIORARIA*** AS COISAS TE CONTAR AGORA, CERTO?

MAS EU ESTAVA ***ME*** PROTEGENDO. SÓ NÃO QUERIA QUE VOCÊ SOUBESSE O QUE FIZ... NÃO POSSO MAIS ***ESCONDER***. SINTO MUITO, EUGENE. MESMO.

ROSITA ESTAVA APAIXONADA POR MIM. ELA IA ***DEIXAR*** VOCÊ.

...

EU NÃO AMAVA ELE.

ELE NÃO ME AMAVA.

FOI ESTÚPIDO, SÓ POR UMA ***COISA ESTÚPIDA***.

VOCÊ ESTÁ E—

ELA...

OBRIGADO...

OBRIGADO POR ME CONTAR.

SINTO MUITO, MESMO, ELA SÓ... COM VOCÊ FORA POR MUITO TEMPO, ELA FICOU *SOLITÁRIA* E...

...NINGUÉM QUERIA TE MACHUCAR.

NÃO. SINTO MUITO. SEI QUE PERDÊ-LA DEVE TER DOÍDO... MAS VOCÊ NÃO PODIA CONTAR PARA NINGUÉM... NÃO PODIA FALAR SOBRE ISSO...

ISSO DEVE TER SIDO... *MUITO DIFÍCIL*.

É...

ELA ERA... ELA ERA UMA PESSOA MARAVILHOSA.

SIM, ELA ERA...

...COM UM GOSTO *TOTALMENTE* QUESTIONÁVEL PARA HOMENS.

HE.

HA! HA!

OH, DEUS...

FOI UMA NOITE TRANQUILA... E DEVE TER ***TONELADAS*** DE COISAS NESSES PRÉDIOS... NÃO DEVÍAMOS FAZER UMA PEQUENA INVESTIGAÇÃO, ANTES DE PARTIRMOS?

ESSA NÃO É A MISSÃO. VAMOS ENCONTRAR PESSOAS. ESTAMOS NO HORÁRIO.

TÁ, TÁ...

NA *VOLTA* ENTÃO.

...

OK... ***ESPEREM.***

JÁ QUE ESTAMOS NA BORDA DA CIDADE... QUERO TENTAR ALGO.

PREPAREM-SE PARA CAVALGAR O MAIS RÁPIDO SE PRECISAR...

TÁ?

HELLOOOO?!

TEM ALGUÉM AÍ?!

OLÁAAAAAAA?!

HUM...

EAÏ?

QUEM É VOCÊ E O QUE *QUER?*

COMO É? FOI *VOCÊ* QUEM ESTAVA GRITANDO. PENSEI QUE PRECISASSE DE *AJUDA*. AGORA ESTÁ ME TRATANDO COMO SE FOSSE *EU* QUE ESTIVESSE CAUSANDO PROBLEMA.

NÃO VEJO OUTRA PESSOA VIVA HÁ QUASE UM *ANO*, E A PRIMEIRA QUE ENCONTRO PARECE SER PROVAVELMENTE MÁ.

É REALMENTE O *FIM DO MUNDO*...

SINTO MUITO... HUM...

A CIDADE PARECIA *VAZIA*. VOCÊ NOS PEGOU DE GUARDA BAIXA. ESTÁ ARMADA— EU SÓ QUERIA GARANTIR QUE NÃO ESTAVA NOS ATACANDO.

SE EU ESTIVESSE ATACANDO VOCÊS ESTARIA SEGURANDO A ARMA *ASSIM*.

A PARTE PERIGOSA ESTÁ APONTADA *PARA* VOCÊ, AGORA. ISSO É PARA ATACAR. DO OUTRO JEITO... É PARA OLÁ, ESTÁ LÁ SE EU PRECISAR, MAS NÃO ESTÁ PRONTO.

ENTÃO EU *NÃO* ESTAVA ATACANDO... MAS AGORA, AGORA ACHO QUE CABE A *VOCÊ*. VOCÊ VAI TENTAR ME MACHUCAR?

SE PARAR DE APONTAR ESTA ARMA PARA NÓS AGORA, NÃO VAMOS.

DROGA. *DESCULPE!*

NA ÉPOCA QUE EU TINHA PESSOAS POR PERTO PARA ME DIZER COISAS, ME DIZIAM QUE EU TINHA UM BAITA TEMPERAMENTO. DESCULPE ***MESMO***. NÃO VEJO ALGUÉM HÁ TANTO TEMPO QUE NEM SEI O QUE DIZER.

VERDADE SEJA DITA, NEM TENHO CEM PORCENTO DE CERTEZA DE QUE SÃO REAIS. ***VOCÊS*** SÃO TODOS REAIS? NÃO TENHO ALUCINADO NEM NADA ANTES, MAS SABE, SEMPRE TEM UMA PRIMEIRA VEZ PARA TUDO.

DIGA ALGO QUE EU NÃO SABERIA. TIPO... QUAL A CAPITAL DA PENSILVÂNIA?

HARRISBURGO.

NOSSA, EU SABIA DISSO? ACHO QUE SABIA DISSO.

ESSE NEGÓCIO É ENERVANTE.

ESTÁ SOZINHA AQUI?

NÃO JÁ TE DISSE ISSO?! ESTOU SOZINHA POR QUASE UM ANO. É UMA ***DROGA***. ESTOU SURTANDO FALANDO COM PESSOAS REAIS DE NOVO. EU DEVIA TER SIDO MAIS LEGAL PARA NÃO ESTRAGAR ISSO.

CALANDO A BOCA.

...

SOU JUANITA SANCHEZ... MAS SEMPRE *ODIEI* O NOME JUANITA. POR FAVOR ME CHAMEM DE *PRINCESA*.

PRAZER EM TE CONHECER... PRINCESA. SOU MICHONNE. ESTE A É MAGNA, EUGENE, SIDDIQ E YUMIKO.

PORQUE "PRINCESA"?

PORQUE "RAINHA" ME FAZ PARECER *VELHA*.

QUANDO CHEGUEI AQUI... E A CIDADE TODA PARECIA VAZIA, EU A TOMEI POR MINHA.

SOU A PRINCESA DE PITTSBURGH!

TALVEZ DEVÊSSEMOS FALAR BAIXO.

MICHONNE

BEM, É...

A CIDADE NÃO ESTÁ *COMPLETAMENTE* VAZIA.

BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

SPLAGGH!!

BRAKKA!

BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

DEVERÍAMOS MESMO IR ANTES QUE O BARULHO ATRAIA MAIS DELES.

POSSO IR COM VOCÊS?

NÃO.

PORQUE NÃO?!

PORQUE NÃO *CONHECEMOS* VOCÊ.

ENTÃO ME *CONHEÇAM*. PODEMOS CONVERSAR ENQUANTO VIAJAMOS JUNTOS... QUE MELHOR FORMA DE CONHECER ALGUÉM? PROMETO QUE SOU LEGAL PRA CARAMBA.

NÃO *QUERO* ME CONHECER? NÃO ESTÁ *CURIOSA*? EU PODIA SER UMA ÚTIL ADIÇÃO A SEU GRUPO DE VIAGEM.

TALVEZ EU SAIBA DE UM LUGAR MANEIRO PRA *NADAR* POR PERTO?

OLHA, EU ENTENDO. ***PROBLEMAS DE CONFIANÇA***, CERTO? ENTENDO, VOCÊ NÃO ME *CONHECEM*, E TENHO ESSA JAQUETA LOUCA ADORÁVEL ROSA E ESSES ÓCULOS ESTILOSOS E TINGI MEU CABELO DE ROXO PORQUE TEM MAIS TINTURA DE CABELO DO QUE *PESSOAS* AGORA, ENTÃO PORQUE NÃO?

ESTOU UM POUCO MALUCA DE NÃO TER PESSOAS POR PERTO POR MUITO TEMPO E PROVAVELMENTE PAREÇO TOTALMENTE DOIDA. VAMOS CONSTRUIR A CONFIANÇA. LEGAL, EU GOSTARIA DISSO TAMBÉM. ESTOU DENTRO DESSA.

EU *NÃO* VOU ENTREGAR *MINHA* ARMA, PORQUE MESMO QUE EU PRECISE DE ALGUÉM PARA CONVERSAR ANTES DE EU PIRAR DE VEZ... NÃO SEI SE CONFIO EM VOCÊ TAMBÉM.

ENTÃO AQUI O LANCE— TEM *CINCO* DE VOCÊS. UMA DE MIM. ENTÃO SE EU FOSSE CAUSAR PROBLEMA, OU SE EU QUISESSE MATAR UM DE VOCÊS, EU MAL CONSEGUIRIA PEGAR UM— TALVEZ ATÉ *DOIS* DE VOCÊS ANTES DOS OUTROS ME MATAREM.

ENTÃO EU TERIA QUE TER UM ***DESEJO DE MORRER*** PARA TENTAR FAZER ISSO, CERTO? MAS TENHO VIVIDO AQUI SOZINHA POR *MUITO* TEMPO ENTÃO ISSO ***PROVA MUITO*** QUE QUERO ESTAR VIVA – CERTO?

VOCÊ SEMPRE FALA TANTO?

NÃO. DEFINITIVAMENTE NÃO.

EU NÃO TINHA NINGUÉM COM QUEM CONVERSAR.

PODEMOS VIGIAR ELA...

QUAL O PROBLEMA?

CERTO.

PEGUE MEU CAVALO, POSSO DIVIDIR COM MAGNA.

VOCÊS PODEM ME SEGUIR POR ALGUNS QUARTEIRÕES? TEM UMAS COISAS QUE EU PREFERIA NÃO ABANDONAR. ROUPAS E COISAS.

QUER QUE A GENTE TE SIGA PARA ALGUM LUGAR? ENTREGUE SUA ARMA, E VAMOS CAVALGAR ATRÁS DE VOCÊ COM UMA ARMA EM SUA CABEÇA. SE PARECER QUE VOCÊ ESTÁ NOS LEVANDO A ALGUM PROBLEMA— JÁ ERA PRA VOCÊ.

É JUSTO.

YEESH!

VOU DIZER, ESTOU GOSTANDO MESMO DA PROPORÇÃO AQUI. SINO-AMERICANA, AFRO-AMERICANA, ÁRABE-AMERICANO. SÃO MUITOS HÍFENS.

APENAS DOIS HOMENS.

SÓ DOIS BRANCOS.

SOU GREGA.

O QUE QUER DIZER?

OH, AGORA OLHANDO MELHOR PRA VOCÊ, VEJO O TOM OLIVA EM SUA PELE. VOCÊ É *LINDA*.

SÓ ESTOU DIZENDO, COMO UMA MÉXICO-AMERICANA... É LEGAL VER OS NÚMEROS EQUILIBRADOS, SABE?

SERÁ QUE NÃO SOMOS TODOS *MINORIA?*

HEH... A ÚNICA MINORIA QUE RESTOU ULTIMAMENTE É "VIVO".

HEHE

SERÁ QUE ALGUÉM JÁ DISSE *ISSO* ANTES...

QUE TERMO GROSSEIRO QUANDO SE PENSA NISSO, CERTO? JÁ PENSOU NISSO? HAVIAM MENOS DE NÓS, ENTÃO NOS CHAMAVAM DE *MINORIAS*.

SOA TÃO *NEGATIVO*, COMO SE A PALAVRA FOSSE *PROJETADA* PARA FAZER ALGUÉM NOS DISPENSAR IMEDIATAMENTE.

HAVIAM TANTAS OPÇÕES MELHORES... DIGO, SE TEM *MENOS* DE VOCÊ, ISSO TE TORNA ESPECIAL... E SINGULAR. "ESPECIAIS?" "SINGULARES". AMBAS ÓTIMAS.

E QUANTO A "RARO", ISSO TERIA SIDO LEGAL. MEU IRMÃO E EU SOMOS "RARIDADES". ADOREI.

QUE FOI?

VOCÊ TEM RAZÃO.

ESTOU COMEÇANDO A TE CATIVAR. EU FAÇO ISSO. VOCÊ VERÁ.
VOCÊ VAI ME *AMAR*.
...
JÁ ME AMA O BASTANTE PARA BAIXAR ESSA ARMA?

...

NÃO CUSTA TENTAR.

ESTÁ LOGO À FRENTE.

ESTAMOS QUASE LÁ.

FIQUE ALERTA. NÃO GOSTO DISSO.

CERTO.

É ISSO.

SE ANIMEM, PESSOAL!

EU TROUXE UNS CAVALOS PRA GENTE!

PARE! BEM ONDE ESTÁ!

AGORA MESMO!

SE EU VER A *CARA DE ALGUÉM* ANTES DE VER AS *MÃOS*, VOU EXPLODIR A *PORRA* DA CABEÇA!

ENTENDEU?!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

SÓ ESTAVA BRINCANDO!

NÃO TEM *NINGUÉM* AQUI!

SEGURE MINHA ARMA.

JÁ VOLTO.

...

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

I wrote the opening sequence to this issue a few months ago. When I had them leaving deserted Pittsburgh, the hometown of George A. Romero and the setting of Night of the Living Dead *and* Dawn of the Dead*... I just couldn't resist the idea of having Michonne turn around and reenact the memorable scene from the beginning of* Day of the Dead. *I thought introducing Princess in this way would really showcase just how important this new character will be. I even bought* Day of the Dead *on iTunes (about my ninth purchase of it) and watched it for the first time in a few years. To say these movies were an inspiration for what you're now reading the 171st issue of is an understatement. They're the true north of what I've done in this series. THE WALKING DEAD simply doesn't exist without George A. Romero doing his movies first.*

I first encountered Night of the Living Dead *on late-night network television. The Fox affiliate of the brand new fourth network channel in Lexington, Kentucky had airtime to fill, so they would run movies at night. One of those nights they ran* Night of the Living Dead *(followed by an ILLEGAL, I would later learn, airing of the* Night of the Living Bread *spoof). Watching Duane Jones get shot at the end of that movie blew my mind. The level of social commentary tucked effortlessly into that flawless horror film was awe-inducing, and is sadly still extremely relevant today. It took seeing* Night of the Living Bread *to allow my teenage mind to finally go to sleep.*

I didn't see Dawn of the Dead *or* Day of the Dead *until after I'd moved out of my house... they were some of the final VHS tapes I ever bought in my late teens. When most people my age were going to college, I was attending Romero night school. I watched those movies over and over and over. I was obsessed with them. At the same time I was doing BATTLE POPE followed by SUPERPATRIOT, and eventually I found myself pitching a new book to Image Comics almost every month... I desperately wanted to get away from doing superheroes, as that was mostly what I'd done up to that point. By then I'd done a deep dive into the many other movies that played around in Romero's sandbox, Lucio Fulci's* Zombie *being my favorite among them... so it occurred to me that no one had ever done a story that followed a group of survivors, like the group in the house in* Night*, or the people in the mall in* Dawn*, or those sad soldiers and scientists who found themselves locked in that bunker in* Day*... and followed them for YEARS in a continuing story. I've said in countless interviews that I wanted to do "a zombie movie that never ends."*

I probably should have said "a Romero zombie movie that never ends."

I planned on writing about George this issue, talking about his influence on me and his effect on my career, and urging anyone reading this who hasn't devoured his work (he did SIX zombie movies ultimately and a ton of other great non-zombie movies like Martin, Monkey Shines, The Crazies *and* Bruiser*) to run out immediately and do so. I wanted to thank him... as it's my love of his work that keeps me energized enough to write this book year after year. Unfortunately, on July 16th George passed away.*

Unfortunately, I never got to meet him.

He walked by me once at Comic-Con and I almost stopped him... but in the end I couldn't build up the nerve to do so.

George has had a complicated relationship publicly with THE WALKING DEAD. It would be easy to assume he hated it and hated me, but the truth is he said once in an interview that he enjoyed the books. That was a big deal for me when it happened. It's just another one of those surreal moments of my life, hearing the inspiration for your work read and enjoyed it.

He's called the show a soap opera and said it wasn't for him (I'm paraphrasing here). I only bring that up because when I commented on his passing publicly, a few people responded negatively about him because of how he felt about a show they loved. I just want to try and dispel any of those feelings right now. THE WALKING DEAD is *kind of a soap opera... his statement is largely accurate. But even if he'd said every form of THE WALKING DEAD was a steaming pile of shit... I would have still loved him and loved his work. He's more than earned the right to pass judgment on any form of zombie fiction. He's George A. Romero, the father of the modern zombie and horror master. There will never be another person who influences zombie horror as much as he did.*

If you are a fan of THE WALKING DEAD, you are a fan of George A. Romero.

He will be missed.

-Robert Kirkman

_____

Re. Andrea's death

Response: Enough of maudlin tone of the subsequent issues and letter hacks already. She's dead, she's gone, buh-bye, adios, and all that other saccharin BS. My reaction to all the fuss: Meh.

Ok, ok, the grieving period is officially over (except for the trade readers. Those folks

are in for a big surprise when Volume 28 hits this month).

HOWever, my response to the fact that Aaron has finally found Jesus? HALLELUJAH! Leviticus be damned. Shame I never got to hear those giant brass balls clanging together!

B. Hawkes
Nova Scotia, Canada
(proudly Trump-free)

I figured people would like that.

Hey Robert and Sean

I just read issue 169 and after Andrea's recent death I was wondering if Rick and Michonne would eventually become close like in the show. I also have questions on the one I just read, will Negan start another war against Rick after being driven away?

Can't see him starting a war with just a satchel of pork and beans, but more on Negan's solitary life in #174.

As for Rick and Michonne, as much as I LOVE that relationship in the show, there are no plans to mimic it in this series.

On the topic of wars with the groups, I also am unsure about the group Eugene was contacting. (This is completely off topic of this letter but my computer auto-corrected Negan to Vegan and Michonne to Microphone and it annoyed me.) I get a feeling that there will be a lot of conflict between many characters because of the Sherry situation, Negan being sent free, and I think there could be conflict between Sophia and Lydia. Both the comic and the show keep me wanting more, (I can't wait until season 8) keep it up!

-Myra

There's plenty of conflict on the horizon, don't you worry!

Dear Mr. Kirkman and Sean,

Long time reader here (almost ten years, woah!) and I've been wanting to do this letter for a long time. As a person with Asperger's, I am very glad you confirmed that Eugene is on the autism spectrum. Eugene is my hero and my inspiration and I've always suspected he was just like me. Whenever people say they don't like him or think he's cowardly, I always point to No Way Out when Eugene bravely charges into the meleé saying that people will remember this and he can't sit out. I am also interested in the adventures he will have in Ohio, and his eventual meeting with Stephanie.

Eugene's grown to be one of my favorite characters, too. He really proved himself in All Out War and how much he transformed Alexandria in the aftermath. He won't be taking a backseat anytime soon.

My other favorite is Dwight. I admire how far he's come, and how important he is now. Here's hoping he gets over Sherry and notices cute Laura really quick.

Thanks to you guys and the whole Walking Dead team!

Cody Ball
King, NC

Thanks for writing, Cody! I can't comment on Dwight's future love life for fear of spoilers, but you may be onto something... or not.

Mr. Kirkman,

First off, love the Walking Dead. I will admit that the TV show brought me to the comic series, but as time has progressed, I have found that I enjoy the books more than the show.

It's not a contest! Find us however you can, and you don't have to choose between the TV show, the comic, or video game!

Now the reason for my letter. I have patiently been waiting to read in print Andrea's reaction when Carl confessed to killing Ben. What I wasn't prepared for was the floodgates to open up and that I would be crying 5 pages into the issue. Carl retelling the story was brilliant, and very well done. I know previous letter hacks have criticized the writing, but in my amateur opinion it is a well written story. Kudos to you Mr. Kirkman. Keep up the good work.

Paul K.
Hamburg, Pennsylvania

Wait... someone has been criticizing the writing?! And we've been printing those letters?! What the hell were we thinking?!

Hi Robert

I was just wondering if we could possibly see the girl from the walking dead the alien anytime soon?

Only if Brian K. Vaughan and Marcos Martin decide to come back and do another story with her! That is until I COMPLETELY sell out and do something against their wishes and turn those guys against me! Who knows what could happen. Although that probably won't happen

And also why hasn't rick ever mentioned family or attempted to find anyone he knows other than Lori and carl?

Thanks from Canada!
Nick

He's been pretty busy... and most people are dead, it'd be a huge risk to make a trip to find an aunt or an uncle without any evidence they're actually still alive.

Dear Kirkman and co,

I am a Christian, and as such I was initially appalled at Paul Monroe and his nickname. Since then, I've come to terms with his name however, and i think he might be one of the most original characters you have come up with. Believe it or not, despite my religion I thought making him homosexual made him all the more interesting. However, I am curious what made you decide to put a character into The Walking Dead that looked somewhat similar to Jesus Christ and give said character the nickname Jesus? I understand the reason the CHARACTERS call him Jesus, but what

caused YOU to put Jesus into The Walking Dead?

***There wasn't any real motive behind it to be completely honest. As I recall I just wanted to have a name that was easy to remember, and I thought it would be cool to have a character named Jesus. So we went with it. Sorry there wasn't more thought put into it. There are tons of characters and people named Jesus, though... it's not just that one guy. Blame* The Big Lebowski...**

Then I also have an unrelated question. During All Out War when Heath lost his leg and Denise sacrificed her chance of survival for him, did you ever consider killing Heath off and having Denise be the armless doctor who lost her lover? I am glad you did what you did though, because Heath is my favorite character and every time I open an issue I hope he's a big part of it.

Sincerely, Connor

I thought it was more interesting to lose a doctor so then people in Alexandria would have to go to the Hilltop for medical care... but I never actually USED that in a story so... yeah, it was kind of pointless, but that was the idea behind it.

Hey guys!

After reading Issue 169, I must say that the shot of Andrea's tombstone reading "Andrea Grimes" was arguably more emotional to me than her actual death. Carl's story about how he came to call Andrea mom was absolutely gut-wrenching. I'm glad we finally found out how Andrea discovered the truth about Ben and Billy.

I can't help but ask, however, if that was the reason Andrea's last name was never revealed. Had you always intended for a moment like this with the character? Some emotional reveal of her last name? Whether it be with Rick, Dale, or whoever?

Anyways, though, keep up the awesome work, dudes.

Dalton Faulder
Jackson Center, OH

NO. I never gave Andrea a last name because I'm lazy. And I didn't even intend to have the gravestone say Andrea Grimes until after the art came in. The tombstone originally just read "ANDREA" and that's when I had the thought to put Grimes on there. That's a really good example of things just happening and a great moment coming out of it. If I'd taken the time to actually give her a last name, that's probably what it would have said, but saving that moment to reveal she'd taken Rick's last name... it was too good of an opportunity to pass up. Sometimes stories are planned in meticulous detail... and moments like that are built to for years... and sometimes the stars just align at the exact right moment.

Dear Letter Hacks,

NO! You done messed up, Robert!

You had the perfect opportunity to give us a Rick/Negan road trip, and you blew it! As I was reading through #169, I got to the point where Jesus said "No" to the road trip, and I realized that this was the point where Rick would have to make the journey himself. I felt like you were further shoring up the possibility with the first half of his conversation with Dwight... and then BAM! Michonne had to come along and shut it all down.

How perfect would it have been to get that Rick & Negan dynamic for weeks on end (while Eugene rode along uneasily at their side)? You still could've had Dante tracking Negan for Maggie. It would've opened up an intriguing scenario with him spying on them as they met up with Stephanie and the Ohio crew.

But alas, it's not gonna happen. Too bad. Rick and Negan were such good counterparts. I'll miss seeing those two work off each other.

Rick is far too important to leave Alexandria, especially with Dwight hanging about, but this is a cool "what if".

A quick sidebar to your letters page from issue #169, Image already did that "artists as writers" things when it began. With some notable exceptions (e.g. some of Larsen's run on "Savage Dragon"), there was a lot of crap there.

I'm not saying that artists should never write their own stories, but don't sell yourself short. We've clawed our way free from the art-centric '90s and experienced some excellent comics due in large part to awesome writers such as yourself.

I don't think anyone's selling themselves short. We all just want to read good comics, no matter who makes them. If you're still not convinced, check out Daniel Warren Johnson's EXTREMITY, Andrew McLean's *Headlopper*, Sina Grace's *Nothing to Lose*... or even Skybound's latest comic, SLOTS, by Dan Panosian!

Then again, you DID just split up Negan & Rick. I bet Adlard wouldn't have done that...

Cheers,
Wesley Rice (amateur writer)

There is also* Rock Candy Mountain *by Kyle Starks* & Shaolin Cowboy *by Geoff Darrow (which I maybe mentioned in the #169 letters column)... whatever. The '90s produced a shit ton of AWESOME comics... let's stop looking down on that decade simply because it was the first era in comics where a significant portion of the readership was adults.

We'll see you in October for #172! Keep an eye out for WALKING DEAD tribute variants across the Image Comics line! Seven Skybound books are included, and our best artists are homaging some of the most notorious WALKING DEAD covers using their own characters.

-Sean Mackiewicz

OH, one more thing! Skybound is doing a whole slew of variants this month to showcase the talent of Italian artist LORENZO DE FELICI who may have an upcoming book at Skybound that may be announced soon. Who knows. But check out his work he's AMAZING!! He did a variant for this very comic!!

-Robert Kirkman